

A scenic landscape of a Vermont farm. In the foreground, a rustic wooden fence runs across a lush green field. In the middle ground, a herd of cows is grazing in a field. The background features rolling mountains under a blue sky with light clouds. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the center of the image.

**Vermont Climate Council
Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee**

Global Warming Solutions Act

Vermont Climate Council
Subcommittees:

Rural Resilience and Adaptation

Cross Sector Mitigation

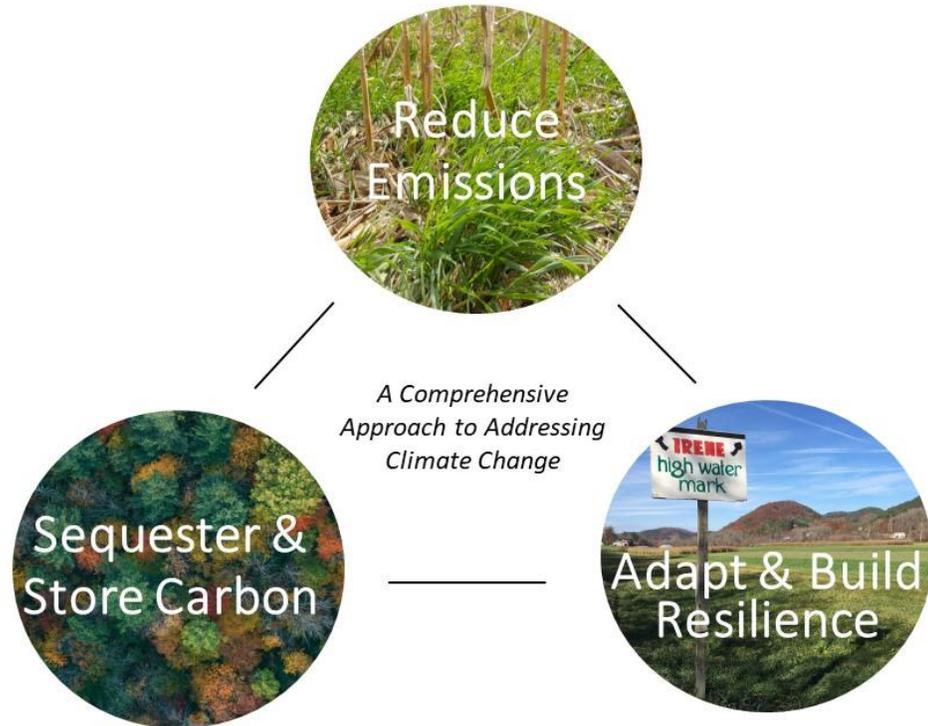
Just Transitions

Agriculture and Ecosystems

Science and Data



Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee Focus

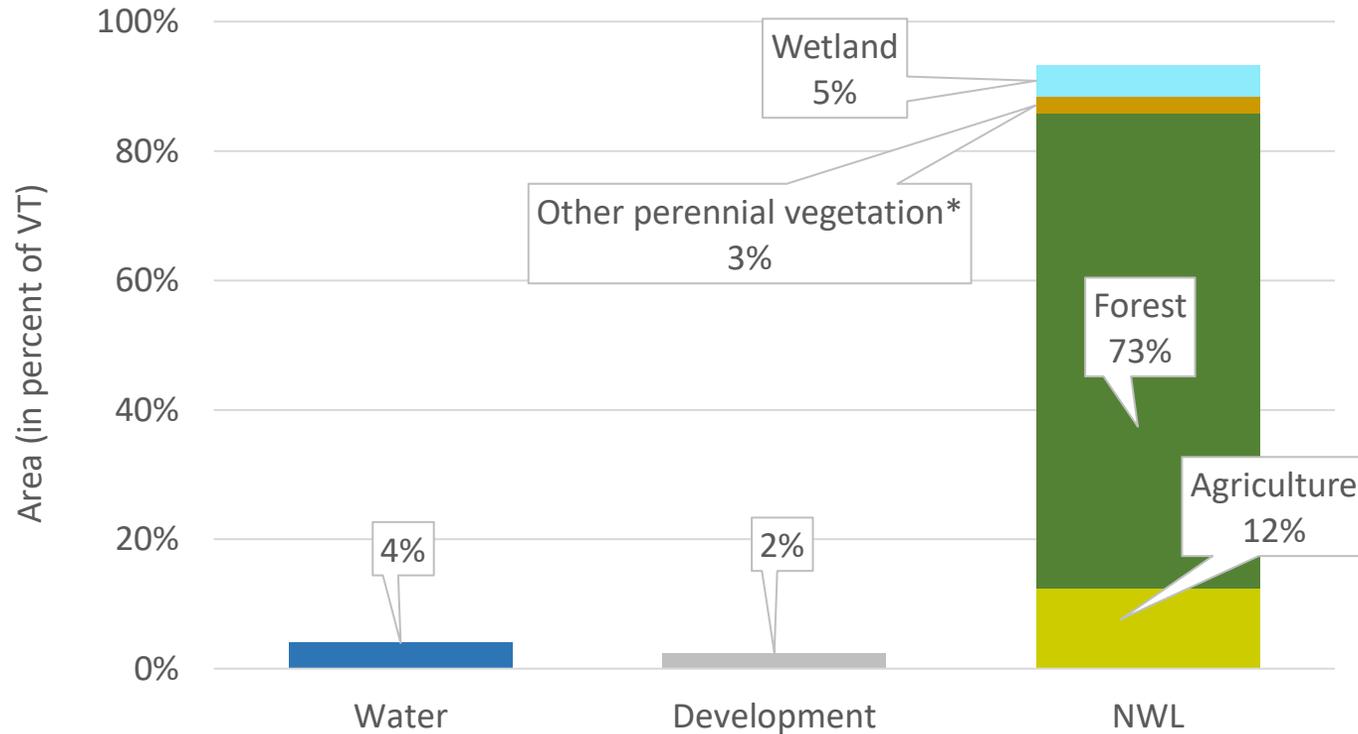


- **From statute:** *This subcommittee shall focus on the role Vermont's natural and working lands play in **carbon sequestration and storage, climate adaptation, and ecosystem and community resilience.** This subcommittee will seek to understand current initiatives in the agricultural and forestry sectors and the businesses that depend on them and to develop actions and policies that **restore wetlands; increase carbon stored on agricultural and forest land and in forest products; and support healthy agricultural soils and local food systems***

- **Focus areas:**

- Develop a carbon budget for sequestration and storage
- Decrease emissions and promote sequestration and storage in the agricultural and forestry sectors,
- Maintain or increase sequestration and storage on Vermont's natural lands
- Use nature-based solutions to improve climate adaptation and resilience
- Promote local food and forest markets/systems, food sovereignty and security, and sustainable farm, forest, & water-based economies
- Promote healthy soils, lands, and waters
- Elevate equity across all focus areas

Natural & Working Lands (NWL) cover 94% of Vermont



*Other perennial vegetation includes grasslands, shrub/scrublands, and turf



Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee Members and Staff Support

Subcommittee Members:

- **Abbie Corse***, Co-Chair, The Corse Farm Dairy
- **Billy Coster**, Co-Chair, Agency of Natural Resources
- **Jake Claro**, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
- **Judy Dow**, Gedakina
- **Charlie Hancock**, North Woods Resource Group
- **Sophia Clark, Iris Hsiang, Sonja Reilly, Lilly Terry***, Youth Members
- **David Mears**, Audubon Vermont
- **Lauren Oates***, The Nature Conservancy
- **Ryan Patch***, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- **John Roberts**, Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition
- **Alissa White**, UVM

State Staff Support:

- **Alex DePillis**, AAFM
- **Alexandra Kosiba**, FPR
- **Judson Peck**, AAFM
- **Bob Popp**, F&W
- **Marli Rupe**, DEC

* Councilor or designee



Agriculture & Ecosystem Pathways



Maintain and expand Vermont's natural and working lands' role in the mitigation of climate change through human interventions to reduce the sources and enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

Sustain, restore, and enhance the health and function of Vermont's natural and working lands to help both natural and human communities adapt to climate change.

Support and empower Vermont's natural and working lands owners, managers, and caretakers to enhance farm and forest viability and to make informed decisions to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Grow and connect local, sustainable natural and working lands economies, markets, and food systems, while ensuring and providing equitable access to said economies, markets, and food systems for Vermont's people.

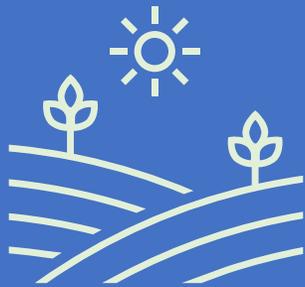
Shape land use and development that support carbon sequestration and storage, climate resilience and adaptation, and natural and human communities for a sustainable and equitable future.

Maintain and expand Vermont's natural and working lands' role in the mitigation of climate change through human interventions to reduce the sources and enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

Support and empower Vermont's farmers, foresters, and land workers to capacitate renewable energy and building product transitions.

Create accessible, equitable research, partnerships, and education; promote shared understanding; and invest in sustainable workforce development for the natural and working lands sector.

Agriculture &
Ecosystem
Strategies and
Action



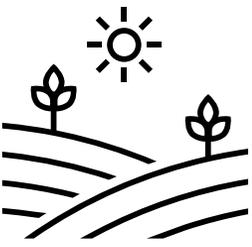
From the 8 Pathways,

43 Strategies, and

Close to 200 Actions;

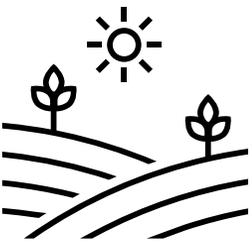
However, not with full consensus.

Climate Action Underway in Vermont



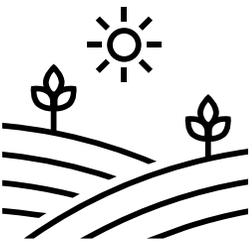
- Completion of a Vermont Carbon Budget.
- Increased Coordination of State Climate Action via Climate Action Office.
- Passing of Environmental Justice Bill and Expansion of EJ Efforts at ANR and Across State Government.
- Increased funding for Floodplain Buyouts.
- Expanded Smart Growth Infrastructure Programs and Investment.

Climate Action Underway in Vermont



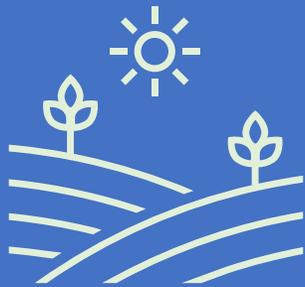
- Increased funding for Urban Tree Planting/Vermont Community Canopy Program.
- Expansion of UVA to include certain lands managed for old forest conditions.
- Update to Vermont Significant Wetland Inventory maps underway.
- Forest Landowner Estate Planning and Land Transfer Service Provider Program launched through VFFVP.

Climate Action Underway in Vermont



- VHCB-led Strategic Conservation Planning Effort underway.
- VT Conservation Leaders in Solidarity – CWC facilitated program focused on building equity and inclusion in Land Conservation sector.
- Vermont Land Access and Opportunity Board.
- Ongoing VCC consideration of Biomass and Wood Fuel.

Questions and Contact



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